

What to Remember When  
Reporting Suspicious Activity

## The Five “W”s

**What**  
is happening?

**Who**  
is doing it?

**Where**  
is it taking place?

**When**  
did you observe it?

**Why**  
is it suspicious?

When determining whether activity is suspicious, please remember to focus on the actual behavior. Factors such as race, ethnicity, national origin, or religious affiliation alone are not suspicious. We are committed to ensuring that the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of our citizens are preserved.

## Report Suspicious Activity

Submit a Tip or Lead to:

**San Diego Law Enforcement  
Coordination Center**

Phone: 858-495-7293 • Fax 858-503-5621

[www.SDLECC.org](http://www.SDLECC.org)

**San Diego  
Joint Terrorism Task Force**

Phone: 858-565-1255

Prompt 9 (voicemail)



**San Diego Police Department**  
Phone: 619-531-2000 • If imminent dial 911  
[www.sandiego.gov/police/](http://www.sandiego.gov/police/)



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# Eight Signs of Terrorism



**San Diego Law Enforcement  
Coordination Center  
(SD-LECC)**



**City of San Diego**



**San Diego  
Joint Terrorism Task Force  
(JTTF)**

# Eight Signs of Terrorism

## 1 Surveillance

Terrorists may conduct surveillance to determine a target's strengths and weaknesses. Be aware of someone who appears to be monitoring security personnel or equipment, or gauging emergency response time. Suspicious activities could include using vision enhancing devices, acquiring floor plans or blueprints, and showing interest in security and access to facilities.



## 2 Elicitation

A terrorist may try to gain information about the operations and security of a potential target, possibly an important place such as a power plant, stadium, or school.

It could be gathered many ways by phone, email, in person, or even by gaining employment at the location.

## 3 Testing Security

Someone may use different methods to test security, such as trespassing into a restricted area or leaving a bag unattended in a public place to see how long it takes for people or security to respond.



## 4 Funding

Terrorists need to raise money for their operations and spend it in a way that doesn't draw attention.

This could be done many ways through crimes such as drugs and counterfeit merchandise sales, burglary, or even funneling money from legitimate businesses or non-profit organizations.

Be aware of unusually large transactions paid with cash or gift cards, or someone soliciting a donation for a charity you've never heard of.

## 5 Acquiring Supplies

To conduct an attack, terrorists may need a variety of supplies, such as weapons, transportation, and communication systems.

Suspicious activities could include a vehicle left in an unusual place; stockpiling fertilizers, weapons, even one-time use cell phones; acquiring or stealing uniforms; and forging personal identification or passports.



## 6 Impersonation

Terrorists may impersonate law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS or paramedic personnel, mail carriers, or company employees to gain information.

Someone who seems suspicious in what they say or do on the job could be a red flag.

## 7 Rehearsal

Terrorists often rehearse a planned attack, possibly several times, to make sure their operation runs smoothly. This may include measuring response time by emergency responders, and possibly using police radios.

## 8 Deployment

This is when terrorists are putting their plans into place, getting into position, moving equipment and supplies, and launching an attack.

If you believe there is imminent danger, call 911 immediately.

